

Mineral Industry Surveys

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COBALT IN JUNE 1999

The cobalt content of cobalt metal and chemicals imported into the United States during January through May 1999 was basically the same as that during the first 5 months of 1998, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The cobalt content of exports of unwrought cobalt and cobalt contained in chemicals during the first 5 months of 1999 was 10% lower than that during the same period in 1998. Data for U.S. consumption, stocks, and trade in June 1999 will be available in a subsequent issue.

Note

With the exception of prices, all data in this report have been rounded to no more than three significant digits. Totals and percentages were calculated by using unrounded data.

Update

On July 29, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), U.S. Department of Defense, announced that it had awarded 124 metric tons (274,000 pounds) of cobalt cones, granules, lumps, and rondelles at a total value of \$4.2 million. The following companies were awarded cobalt: Globe Commodities Exchange

& Distribution S.A. of Lutry, Switzerland; Glencore Ltd. of Stamford, CT; Sogem USA, Inc., of Raleigh, NC; Sovereign Recycling International of Bettendorf, IA; and Voss Metals Co. of Rockford, IL (Defense Logistics Agency, 1999). The next monthly bid opening for cobalt granules and rondelles is scheduled for Wednesday August 25. For further information on DLA's cobalt sales program, please contact DLA's contracting officer for cobalt, Jennifer Iribarren, at (703) 767-5487.

Price

Prices for electrolytic cobalt, in dollars per pound, from Platt's Metals Week are listed below.

<u>Week ending</u>	<u>Price range</u>
August 6	19.00-20.00

Reference Cited

Defense Logistics Agency, 1999, Stockpile accepts cobalt bids: Fort Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency press release, July 29, 1 p.

TABLE 1
U.S. REPORTED STOCKS OF COBALT MATERIALS 1/

(Metric tons, contained cobalt)

Period	Industry 2/ Oxide and other chemical compounds 5/			Total	U.S. Government, 3/ metal
	Metal 4/		Scrap		
1998:					
June	377	192	117	686	15,700
July	351	207	113	670	15,400
August	357	244	95	697	15,400
September	354	250	95	700	14,900
October	327	259	88	674	14,900
November	314	269	83	666	14,800
December 6/	334	291	81	706	14,700
1999:					
January	361	229	107	697	14,700
February	355	208	106	669	14,600
March	345	209	107	661	14,400
April	318	196	127	642	14,200
May	NA	NA	NA	NA	14,100
June	NA	NA	NA	NA	13,800

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Stocks reported by cobalt processors and consumers.

3/ Data from Defense Logistics Agency. Includes material committed for sale pending shipment.

4/ Includes metal powder.

5/ Data may include other cobalt materials.

6/ Data based on monthly reports.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF COBALT, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Metals 2/		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds 3/		Total cobalt content for the month 5/	Cobalt content, year to date 5/ 6/
	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/		
1998:								
May	567,000	\$27,700,000	94,800	\$3,490,000	237,000	\$2,180,000	699,000	3,540,000
June	504,000	24,200,000	89,100	3,170,000	61,400	669,000	584,000	4,130,000
July	487,000	22,600,000	70,200	2,750,000	23,700	250,000	544,000	4,670,000
August	456,000	21,200,000	96,600	3,390,000	12,300	147,000	529,000	5,200,000
September	503,000	21,900,000	109,000	3,860,000	43,400	438,000	594,000	5,790,000
October	550,000	22,500,000	93,400	3,120,000	172,000	1,570,000	663,000	6,460,000
November	524,000	19,200,000	155,000	4,440,000	37,300	397,000	645,000	7,100,000
December	466,000	14,500,000	76,000	1,950,000	174,000	2,430,000	567,000	7,670,000
January-December	6,450,000	284,000,000	1,210,000	41,500,000	1,310,000	13,600,000	7,670,000	XX
1999:								
January	605,000	16,200,000	160,000	3,810,000	70,800	529,000	739,000	739,000
February	528,000 7/	12,800,000 7/	81,100	1,570,000	55,900	430,000	601,000	1,340,000
March	736,000	25,200,000	97,400	2,650,000	33,000	217,000	815,000	2,160,000
April	735,000	23,000,000	129,000	3,720,000	72,200	599,000	847,000	3,000,000
May:								
Belgium	48,200	1,780,000	750	29,800	--	--	48,700	160,000
Brazil	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	98,000
Canada	65,100	1,980,000	--	--	272	5,620	65,200	354,000
China	--	--	6,450	137,000	--	--	4,640	7,130
Congo (Kinshasa)	67,100	2,100,000	--	--	--	--	67,100	389,000
Finland	38,200	1,470,000	47,700	1,210,000	115,000	771,000	103,000	826,000
France	784	63,000	4,870	260,000	--	--	4,290	22,700
Germany	5,700	297,000	432	34,700	--	--	6,010	32,200
India	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	76
Japan	12,600	466,000	--	--	--	--	12,600	16,200
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	11,000	155,000	2,750	5,320
Norway	150,000	4,300,000	--	--	--	--	150,000	712,000
Russia	42,200	1,220,000	--	--	--	--	42,200	323,000
South Africa	1,000	41,400	--	--	--	--	1,000	3,010
United Kingdom	557	23,100	28,300	655,000	--	--	20,900	113,000
Zambia	82,300	2,410,000	--	--	--	--	82,300	552,000
Total	514,000	16,200,000	88,500	2,330,000	126,000	931,000	611,000	3,610,000

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Unwrought cobalt, excluding alloys; includes cobalt cathode and cobalt metal powder.

3/ Includes cobalt sulfates, cobalt chlorides, cobalt carbonates, and cobalt acetates.

4/ Customs value.

5/ Estimated from gross weights.

6/ Year to date may include revisions to prior months.

7/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

Source: Bureau of the Census, with adjustments by the U. S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ADDITIONAL COBALT MATERIALS, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period and country of origin	Unwrought cobalt alloys		Other cobalt: matte, waste and scrap 2/		Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles	
	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/	Quantity	Value 3/
1998:						
May	40,700	\$1,690,000	64,300	\$778,000	16,800	\$975,000
June	15,600	689,000	42,100	672,000	13,500	836,000
July	15,000	627,000	44,300	560,000	22,900	1,290,000
August	28,700	899,000	59,100	729,000	11,200	709,000
September	39,700	1,550,000	97,100	1,430,000	8,710	682,000
October	72,300	1,860,000	76,700	667,000	8,660	764,000
November	9,710	629,000	250,000	2,360,000	14,900	747,000
December	28,400	1,240,000	14,900	225,000	27,700	901,000
January-December	315,000	11,600,000	857,000	10,800,000	217,000	11,300,000
1999:						
January	23,100	1,300,000	9,610 4/	535,000 4/	18,100	946,000
February	29,400	1,330,000	28,900 4/	826,000 4/	13,000	765,000
March	10,600	740,000	54,500 4/	991,000 4/	29,200	1,020,000
April	50,400	1,670,000	74,100 4/	1,150,000 4/	16,100	651,000
May:						
Belgium	2,040	56,900	586	18,400	469	9,840
Canada	149	9,210	--	--	808	140,000
France	--	--	6,940	315,000	--	--
Germany	35,500	333,000	7,580	136,000	44	11,300
Japan	1,020	66,900	--	--	1,770	81,200
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	65	3,010
Singapore	--	--	6,340	18,100	--	--
Sweden	1,240	23,400	--	--	--	--
United Kingdom	122	3,080	6,420	50,800	8,090	477,000
Total	40,000	493,000	27,900	539,000	11,200	723,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy; may include other cobalt-bearing materials from which cobalt is extracted, or from which cobalt-containing chemical compounds are manufactured.

3/ Customs value.

4/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

Source: Bureau of the Census, with adjustments by the U. S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 4
U.S. EXPORTS OF COBALT MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Unwrought cobalt, powders, matte, waste and scrap 2/		Oxides and hydroxides		Salts and compounds 3/		Total cobalt content for the month 5/	Cobalt content, year to date 5/ 6/
	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/	Quantity	Value 4/		
1998:								
May	68,100	\$3,210,000	34,900	\$841,000	150,000	\$519,000	129,000	740,000
June	60,800	2,860,000	56,300	1,380,000	26,100	238,000	108,000	847,000
July	97,500	4,140,000	39,400	1,190,000	84,000	257,000	146,000	993,000
August	109,000	4,660,000	52,400	908,000	32,700	373,000	155,000	1,150,000
September	127,000	3,480,000	54,400	624,000	40,700	275,000	176,000	1,320,000
October	49,000	2,530,000	61,900	1,150,000	55,100	203,000	107,000	1,430,000
November	64,600	2,670,000	29,700	579,000	25,500	261,000	92,100	1,520,000
December	118,000	3,300,000	30,000	461,000	76,000	281,000	158,000	1,680,000
January-December	1,140,000	43,400,000	533,000	11,300,000	674,000	4,140,000	1,680,000	XX
1999:								
January	25,600	1,090,000	35,100 7/	420,000 7/	11,800	96,500	53,700	53,700
February	56,000	2,320,000	37,200	465,000	9,500	93,500	85,100	139,000
March	78,900	3,210,000	46,200	853,000	47,300	338,000	123,000	262,000
April	105,000	3,840,000	36,600	521,000	38,500	377,000	141,000	403,000
May	240,000	7,040,000	30,600	545,000	11,900	150,000	265,000	667,000

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ May include other intermediate products of cobalt metallurgy, and unwrought cobalt alloys.

3/ Cobalt acetates and cobalt chlorides.

4/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

5/ Estimated from gross weights.

6/ Year to date may include revisions to prior months.

7/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

Source: Bureau of the Census, with adjustments by the U. S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF WROUGHT COBALT, COBALT ORE, AND CONCENTRATES 1/

(Kilograms, gross weight of material, except as noted)

Period	Wrought cobalt and cobalt articles		Cobalt ore and concentrates	
	Quantity	Value 2/	Quantity	Value 2/
1998:				
May	51,700	\$1,790,000	--	--
June	42,200	2,430,000	66,800	\$905,000
July	22,200	1,730,000	25,900	67,600
August	122,000	6,260,000	--	--
September	170,000	5,910,000	454	5,140
October	30,400	2,090,000	--	--
November	46,300	2,800,000	733	47,800
December	36,400	2,130,000	--	--
January-December	667,000	33,900,000	128,000	3,500,000
1999:				
January	24,200	1,480,000	31,400 3/	457,000
February	45,000	2,460,000	14,500 3/	29,500
March	80,000	2,050,000	76,200 3/	94,300
April	54,300	2,410,000	434 3/	3,900
May	40,600	2,170,000	21,900 3/	254,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

2/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value.

3/ All or part of these data have been referred to the Bureau of the Census for verification.

Source: Bureau of the Census, as adjusted by the Geological Survey.